

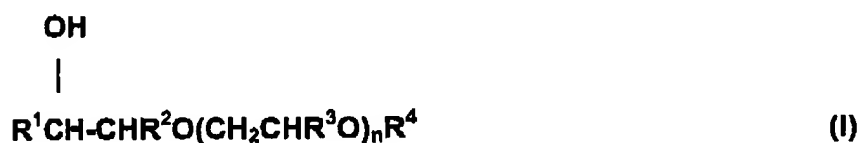
Serial No. 09/896,853  
Art Unit: 1751

**In the Claims:**

Please enter the following amended claims in the application.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

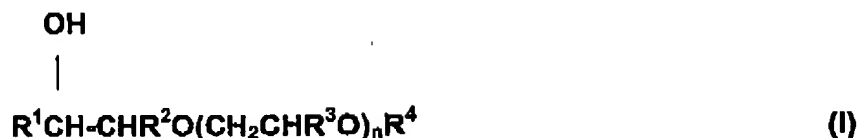
Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[An]] A method for improving the cleaning performance of an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition comprising a hydroxy mixed ether and from about 25 to 75% by weight of water, the detergent composition comprising: water, co-surfactants, typical auxiliaries and additives, wherein the cleaning performance is improved by adding to the detergent composition from about 1 to 35% by weight of a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 22 carbon atoms, n is a number from 1 to 50 and, wherein, the total number of carbon atoms in R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6 and, wherein, the percent by weight is based on the total weight of the detergent composition and the hydroxy mixed ether.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether ~~corresponds to~~ comprises a compound of the formula [[(I)]]:

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from ~~[[1]]6 to about [[22]]18~~ carbon atoms and n is a number from ~~[[1]]2 to about [[50]]25~~, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from ~~about [[1]]5 to [[60]]15%~~ by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ method of claim 11 ~~further comprising a, wherein, the co-surfactant component comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactants, a nonionic surfactants, a cationic surfactants, an amphoteric surfactants, a and zwitterionic surfactants[[,]] and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The ~~composition~~ method of claim 15 wherein the co-surfactant ~~component is present in the composition~~ comprises nonionic surfactants and anionic surfactants in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of

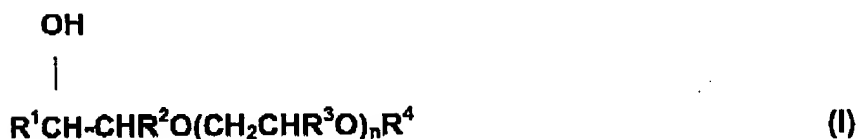
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the composition.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~A process for enhancing cleaning performance of an aqueous laundry detergent composition comprising adding a hydroxy mixed ether to the composition~~ The method of claim 11 wherein the liquid detergent composition comprises: at least one member selected from the group consisting of builders, polymers, redeposition inhibitors, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, perfumes and bleaching agents.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~The process~~ method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether ~~corresponds to~~ comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula ~~[[I)]]~~:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from ~~about~~ [[2]]10 to [[18]]16 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from ~~about~~ 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from [[1]]8 to ~~about~~ [[22]]18 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~The process~~ method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether ~~is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the weight of the composition~~ (I) comprises from 1-10 propoxy groups.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~The process~~ method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 19 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from ~~about~~ [[10]]1 to 15% by

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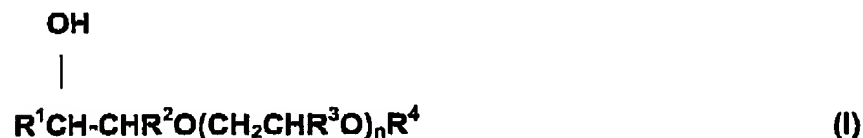
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weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The ~~process~~ method of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises ~~[[a]] at least one~~ co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of ~~an anionic surfactants, [[a]] nonionic surfactants, [[a]] cationic surfactants, an amphoteric surfactants, [[a]] and zwitterionic surfactants[[.]] and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The ~~process~~ method of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for cleaning textiles comprising contacting the textiles with an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition containing: a hydroxy mixed ether ~~corresponding to~~ of the formula  $[(I)]$ :



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from ~~about~~ 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from ~~about~~ 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to ~~about~~ 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to ~~about~~ 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6, co-surfactants, additives and auxiliaries.